

Immunity

The Journal will express no opinion of and assume no responsibility for the views of "Immunity" correspondents. They must win or lose on their own merits by abounding in their own wisdom, and each reader must appraise each communication for what it is worth and take it for better or worse.

Communications will not be signed when published, but the author must be known to the editor. Send on your complaints, your kicks, your knocks, your boosts. We want constructive and destructive criticism. Air your pet hobbies. You are not limited to your own town or the medical profession.

To the Editor:

Does your advertisement on the front page of the Journal which speaks of trusses and ruptures have any symbolic significance of an imminent rupture within the body of the State Society. If so, who will supply a truss? Why not cut it out?
COLUSA.

To the Editor:

When it comes to the League for the Consternation of Public Health and the State Society, which is the tail and which is the dog? Which one has the wag?

I enquire to know. Hoping you are the same, I am yours from

MISSOURI.

Book Reviews

Symptoms of Visceral Disease. By F. M. Pottinger. 328 pp. Illustrated. St. Louis: Mosby. 1919. Price, \$4.00.

This is an applied physiology of the vegetative nervous system, an explanation of symptoms in terms of autonomic nerve physiology. While there is a considerable fund of information contained therein, it is doubtful if the message which the author brings warrants 328 pages. By far the greater part of the book consists of matter equally accessible in Luciani, Starling, or other freely quoted physiologists. None the less, as a compilation of the opinions of the acknowledged leaders in modern physiological research, it is a good source of reference and the clinical deductions of the author are of interest, even though one may not always agree.
E. W. T.

The Higher Aspect of Nursing. By Gertrude Harding. 12mo of 310 pages. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1919. Cloth, \$2.00 net.

This book deals in an interesting and unique manner with faults of character and bad habits which the exigencies of nursing are likely to intensify and even to create. It discusses the temptations and conditions that lead to their development and the evil consequences that are likely to result if they are not curbed. Also, it gives very definite advice regarding the means of overcoming such faults and it points out the necessity for nurses to keep the higher ideals of nursing in mind if they wish to retain a permanent interest in their work. Instructors of nursing will do well to advise their pupils to let this book form part of the reading required with their study of ethics.

Training School Methods for Institutional Nurses.

By Charlotte A. Aikens, formerly director of Sibley Memorial Hospital, Washington, D. C.; formerly superintendent of Iowa Methodist Hospital, Des Moines, and of Columbia Hospital, Pittsburgh; author of "Hospital Management," "Studies in Ethics for Nurses," etc. 12mo of 337 pages. Philadelphia and London:

W. B. Saunders Company, 1919. Cloth, \$2.25 net.

This book, as the author states in the preface, is intended to aid head nurses and other executives in schools of nursing to solve their problems and to form a basis for such instruction of senior pupils as will fit them for accepting responsible institutional positions. Particularly valuable chapters are those dealing with: methods of teaching; means of conserving hospital supplies; systems of training; and the responsibilities of the head nurse to probationers and juniors.

The Operations of Obstetrics. By Frederick Elmer Leavitt, M. D. 466 pages, 248 illustrations. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Co. 1919.

The author attempts to "present the subject of obstetrics from the operator's point of view." He goes very superficially into the indications for these various procedures and contents himself in most instances by simply setting forth the steps in the operation. The obsolete procedures are described as fully and carefully as the universally accepted ones, and it would be very difficult for the general practitioner or the medical student to discriminate between the good and the bad. Nothing new has been added, in fact some of the newer methods have been omitted. Under anesthesia, for example, no mention is made of nitrous oxide and oxygen, while twilight sleep is mentioned rather favorably.

The illustrations are in great part taken directly from other works, due credit being given these originals, or redrawn by the author's own artist.

On the whole, the book is no better than the usual textbooks and will scarcely find favor with teachers or students of obstetrics.
H. A. S.

Laboratory Manual for Elementary Zoology. By L. H. Hyman. 148 pp. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1919. Price \$1.50.

This laboratory manual was prepared for classes in elementary zoology at the University of Chicago. It is practical and answers the purpose for which it is intended.
L. E.

Proteomorphic Therapy and New Medicine. An Introduction to Proteal Therapy. By Dr. Henry Smith Williams. 304 pp. New York: The Goodhue Company. 1918.

This book deals with a series of theories and fine drawn hypotheses in support of the contention that certain foreign proteins of vegetable nature have power to ameliorate, or cure cancer, rheumatoid conditions, asthma and psoriasis, tuberculosis and other diseases. The work done in certain phases has the stamp of scientific accuracy. In other places it is of a most loose and unconvincing type. It would take a great deal of time to analyze and disprove many of the absurdities in this book. So, at the risk of doing an injustice to some of its real worth, it must be classified as a poorly digested serological potpourri. It is to be recommended to those who have time to waste on such tangent reactions in science as a source of amusement only.
S. P.

Military Surgery of the Ear, Nose and Throat. Medical War Manual No. 8. By Hanau W. Loeb. 176 pp. Philadelphia and New York: Lea & Febiger. 1918.

This little vest pocket manual was authorized by the Secretary of War and is an attempt to bring together in a critical way all the literature on ear, nose and throat work which came out during the war. Naturally, one turns with greatest interest to those things which were incident to the war itself, and the chapters on labyrinth concussion and on reconstruction and re-education are well worth special attention. The gunshot injuries of the ear and the accessory sinuses have brought out

nothing new in the way of treatment, the work being handled on general surgical lines. Colonel Isaac Jones is quoted in full on the examination of the internal ear and is evidently going to be accepted as the final tests for aviators both in this country and abroad. The last chapter is entirely given over to a bibliography of the subject and is invaluable. It is curious to note how much German literature was available even during the height of the war.

H. H.

County Societies

ALAMEDA COUNTY.

The first meeting after its vacation held by the Merritt Hospital staff, Monday evening, August 4, was interesting and instructing.

Dr. A. M. Smith gave a paper on "Enlargement of the Thyroid Gland," which was discussed by Doctors Rothganger, Ackery, Smith, Emerson, Dukes and Coleman. Dr. C. A. Dukes spoke on "Vaginal Hysterectomy," employing the projection lantern for illustration. Doctors taking part in the discussion of this subject were A. M. Smith, Abbott, Coleman and Rothganger.

During the serving of refreshments Drs. Alvin Powell and Warren Allen, who have just returned from overseas, reviewed part of their work in army life.

Dr. William Palmer Lucas, University of California professor, has been honored by France, according to news received at the State University, having been named a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor. He was decorated sometime ago with the highest medal of the French government, in recognition of his work in combating epidemics during the war. The award of the Legion of Honor, according to the notice that accompanied the news, was made at the request of hundreds of French people.

The active interest which the medical profession and the people of Alameda county are taking in the improvement of public health was evidenced at a dinner at the Hotel Oakland on August 7. Three hundred representative people came as the guests of the Health Department of the City of Oakland and the Health Center of Alameda county.

Daniel Crosby, M. D., Health Officer, acted as toastmaster and paid many merited compliments to the splendid work which the members of the Alameda County Medical Association had done for the advancement of public health.

Dr. William Thompson Sedgwick of Boston, who has been lecturing on public health topics at the University of California during the summer session, was the chief speaker of the evening and his address held the closest attention of the audience. He was followed by Dr. Richard A. Bolt, who has recently been appointed Medical Inspector of Public Schools of Oakland and Berkeley and Director of the Public Health Center of Alameda county.

Dr. Bolt pointed out the many familiar facts that confront the practicing physician in his daily health work. The wide interest that was aroused and valuable information distributed in reference to Child Welfare during this year was stressed by the speaker and summarized in these words:

"The mother is the environment of the infant; the school is the environment during school age, but the environment between two and six is the No Man's Land of childhood. It is the inalienable right of every child to be well born and to be properly nourished and reared. This can only be done by a very close co-operation of the health authorities and the school authorities in the instruction of our motherhood.

"The time is rapidly approaching when all social agencies will see the necessity of federating their efforts so as to obtain the largest amount of serv-

ice for the community and avoid overlapping and competition."

At the mention of the name of Miss Annie Florence Brown there was enthusiastic applause, the audience rising to its feet and standing in honor of the leader of the new experiment—The Health Center. Miss Brown eloquently described her visit to Atlantic City and to the National Convention of Social Workers. She brought helpful data from that convention and outlined the hopes, aspirations and ideals of the men and women who are becoming interested in public health activities.

Among the members of the Alameda County Medical Association who attended the dinner were the following: Drs. Pauline S. Nusbaumer, William H. Strietman, Lemuel P. Adams, E. E. Brinckerhoff, E. N. Ewer, Dudley A. Smith, W. S. Porter and George Reinle.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY.

Special Meeting of July 25th.

Col. Leon de Page, chief surgeon of the Belgian army, as the representative of the King of the Belgians, expressed the thanks of the King and people of Belgium to the citizens of the United States for the timely aid in the great war, at a dinner given by Dr. Wm. T. McArthur in the California Club. Some of Dr. McArthur's friends were invited to participate at this sumptuous feast of physical and mental food.

Dr. McArthur eloquently eulogized the heroic part Belgium took in the war. Several others paid tributes in glowing terms and drank toasts of "aqua pura" to the King and the people of Belgium. Even Caesar, ages ago, could not conquer the Belgians.

Col. de Page, among the other pleasant things, said that in his youth, when studying the map of the world, he thought Los Angeles way off somewhere in heaven inhabited by angels. Since then he had heard of the city's wonderful growth but was nevertheless greatly surprised to see such colossal buildings and the many beautiful avenues; but notwithstanding these worldly changes he still believes that angels dwell in Los Angeles.

At 8:15 the company strolled up to the Normal Hill Center where the Los Angeles County Medical Association was to meet in the Auditorium.

Col. de Page and his interpreter Capt. Van der Velde were becomingly introduced by the president of the Society, Dr. Wm. T. McArthur. After hearty applause of welcome, Col. de Page began in French and Capt. Van der Velde "pari passu" translated every few sentences, by telling how Belgium was invaded by the Germans August 4, 1914, and then dwelt upon his subject of war surgery.

At first, he said, the situation was deplorable because patients had to be taken 60 miles behind the line which took 48 hours from the time they were wounded. Rapidity was necessary in this surgical work. Later the distance to the hospitals was reduced to five or six miles and mortality was thus reduced from 65 per cent. to 40 per cent. Another important factor was continuity of treatment. Instead of patients being sent on so that the surgeon lost all track of them and never learned the result of his treatment, the hospitals were enlarged and the patients kept until cured. Seven thousand cases were thus followed in their treatment. New methods were tried and the general treatment of wounds studied.

By means of stereoscopic slides Col. de Page showed that only streptococcal infection was to be feared. The bacillus coli, the Welch, and the staphylococcal infections of wounds could be closed at once and primary union obtained.

Smears and cultures were made of the same